



JOHNS HOPKINS
M E D I C I N E

Dietary Interventions to Improve Respiratory Health in Low-Income Populations



CURE COPD Center

Emily Brigham, MD, MHS

ebrigham@jhmi.edu

Assistant Professor

Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

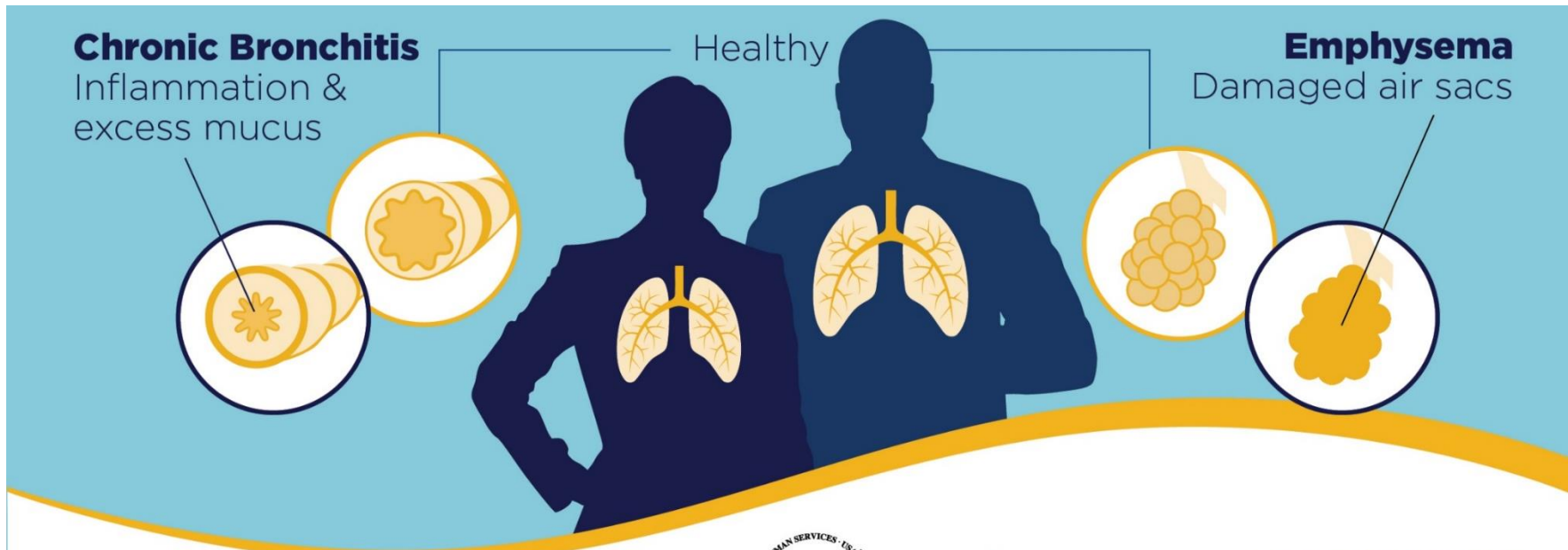
Disclosures

- CURE Funding
 - National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
 - Environmental Protection Agency
- K23
 - National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Discussion Goals:

- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 - A Top Priority
 - Multiple Exposures, Multiple Solutions
- Poverty: Disproportionate Risks
- Potential of Diet
 - Why/How
 - Evidence
 - Translational Opportunity

COPD



nhbi.nih.gov/breathebetter



LEARN MORE
BREATHE BETTER™

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/lung-development-may-explain-why-some-non-smokers-get-copd-some-heavy-smokers-do-not>

COPD Economic Disparities

- National Health Interview Survey (2012-2015)
 - Data linkage to U.S. Census' American Community Survey and National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme
- “Poor community” defined as census tract with $\geq 20\%$ of households living below poverty line



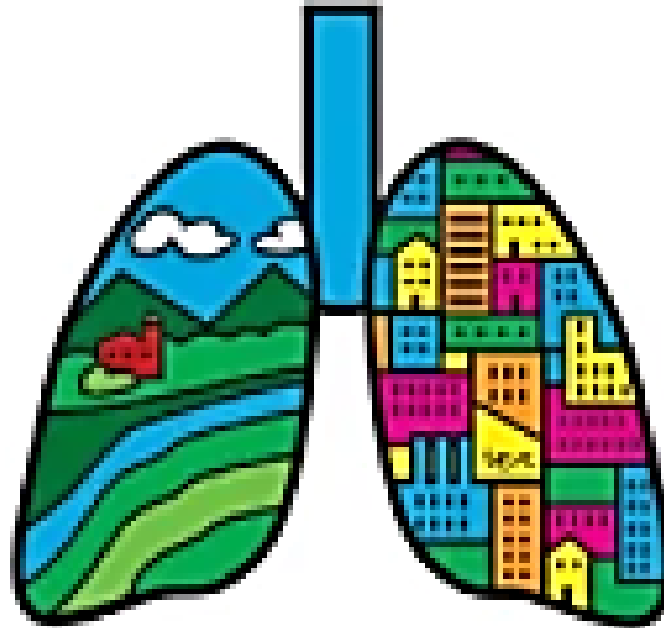
Raju et al, AJRCCM 2019

Poverty = independent risk factor for COPD

Urban/Rural Exposures

RURAL

- Tobacco
- Agriculture
- Livestock
- Mining
- Indoor Air



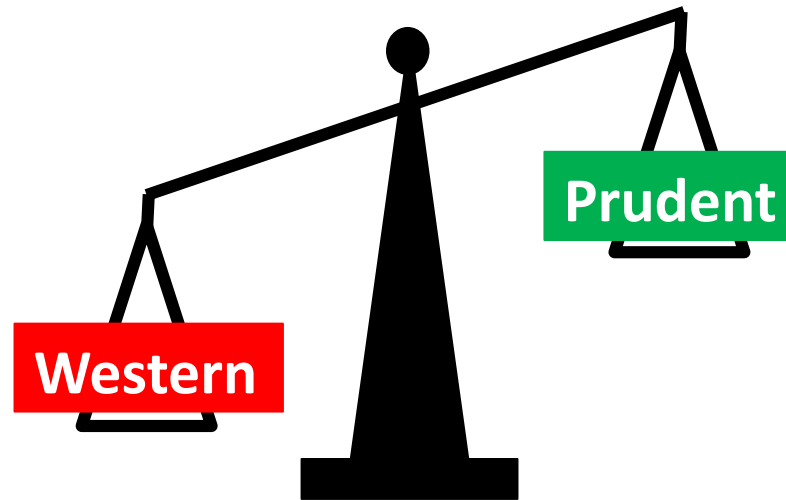
URBAN

- Tobacco
- Traffic
- Construction
- Industry
- Indoor Air

- **People experiencing poverty** – More than 15.8 million people with incomes meeting the federal poverty definition live in counties that received an F for at least one pollutant. Nearly 2.8 million



Dietary Exposures



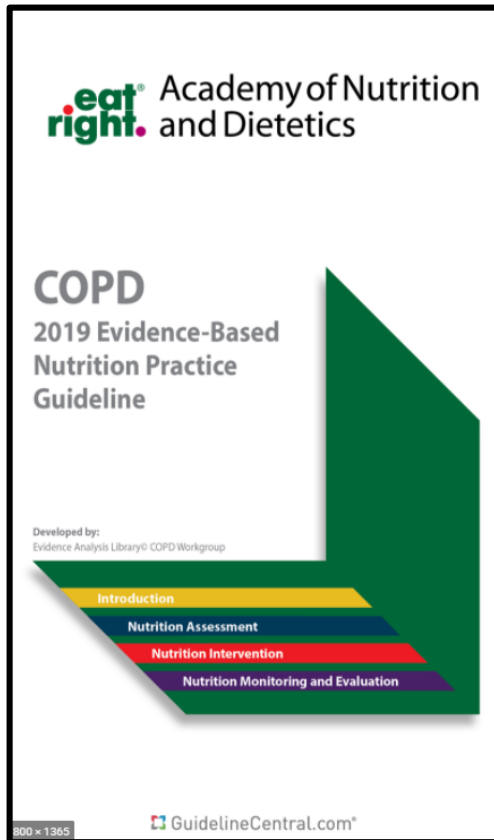
↑↑↑ INTAKE

- processed foods (refined grains, meats, “fast foods”)
- high fat foods, omega-6 fatty acids
- sugar-enriched desserts and drinks

↓↓↓ INTAKE

- whole grains, poultry, fruits and vegetables
- low fat foods, omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants

Diet and Respiratory Health



1. Evidence

- Largely observational

2. Plausibility

- Inflammatory/oxidant properties
- Microbiome: common mucosal response

Scoddi et al, Nutrients, 2019.

Berthon and Wood, Nutrients, 2015.

Brigham et al, Ann All Asthma Immunol, 2015.



The **Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study (ARIC)**

- cohort study in four U.S. communities
- designed to investigate etiology and natural history of atherosclerosis and its clinical manifestations

Visit 1: 1987-1989 (n=15,792)

Western Diet Pattern

Food Item	Factor Loading
Red meat	0.545
Processed meat	0.522
French fries	0.424
Eggs	0.388
Soda/ fruit drink	0.266

Prudent Diet Pattern

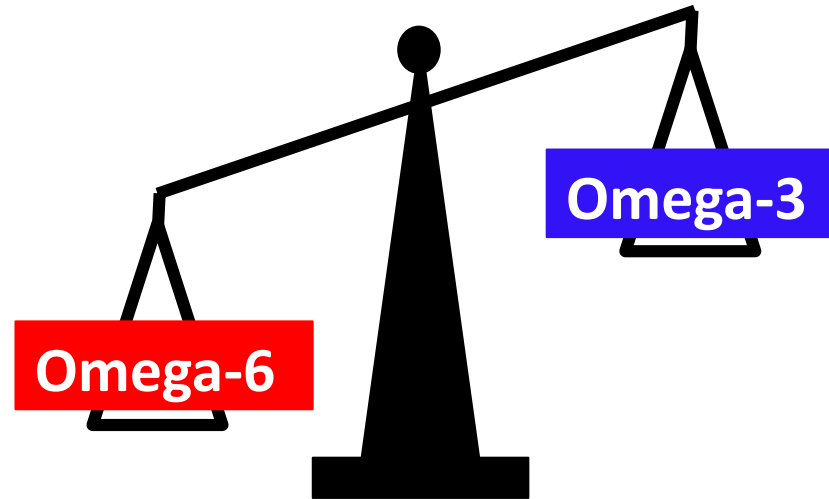
Food Item	Factor Loading
Cruciferous vegetables	0.554
Carotenoid vegetables	0.511
Other vegetables	0.508
Fruit	0.470
Dark-leaf vegetables	0.427

Dietary pattern associates with COPD and respiratory health



- Greater adherence to a Western diet associated with higher prevalence of COPD, higher odds of reported cough, wheeze, phlegm
- Greater adherence to a Prudent diet associated with lower prevalence of COPD, lower odds of reported cough

Omega Fatty Acids



↑↑↑ INTAKE

- processed foods (refined grains, meats, “fast foods”)
- high fat foods, **omega-6 fatty acids**
- sugar-enriched desserts and drinks

↓↓↓ INTAKE

- whole grains, poultry, fruits and vegetables
- low fat foods, **omega-3 fatty acids**, antioxidants

Omega Fatty Acids

...give rise to lipid-derived mediators of inflammation

OMEGA-6

- Leukotrienes
- Prostaglandins
- Lipoxins

OMEGA-3

- Protectins
- Resolvins
- Maresins

Omega FFA intake associates with respiratory health in COPD

(~80% low-income neighborhoods, Baltimore City)



Lemoine et al,
Annals of ATS,
2020

- Cross sectional analysis of n=112 participants with COPD
 - Inclusion criteria: age 40 years or older, post-bronchodilator $FEV_1/FVC < 70\%$ and FEV_1 % predicted $< 80\%$, former smokers
 - Exclusion criteria: chronic oral corticosteroid use, other chronic lung disease except asthma, or lack of nutritional data, **homes with particulate matter concentrations $< 10 \text{ mcg/m}^3$**

Higher omega-3 intake associated with fewer symptoms, better overall health/perceived well-being, lower predicted probability of severe exacerbation

~80% low-income neighborhoods, Baltimore City

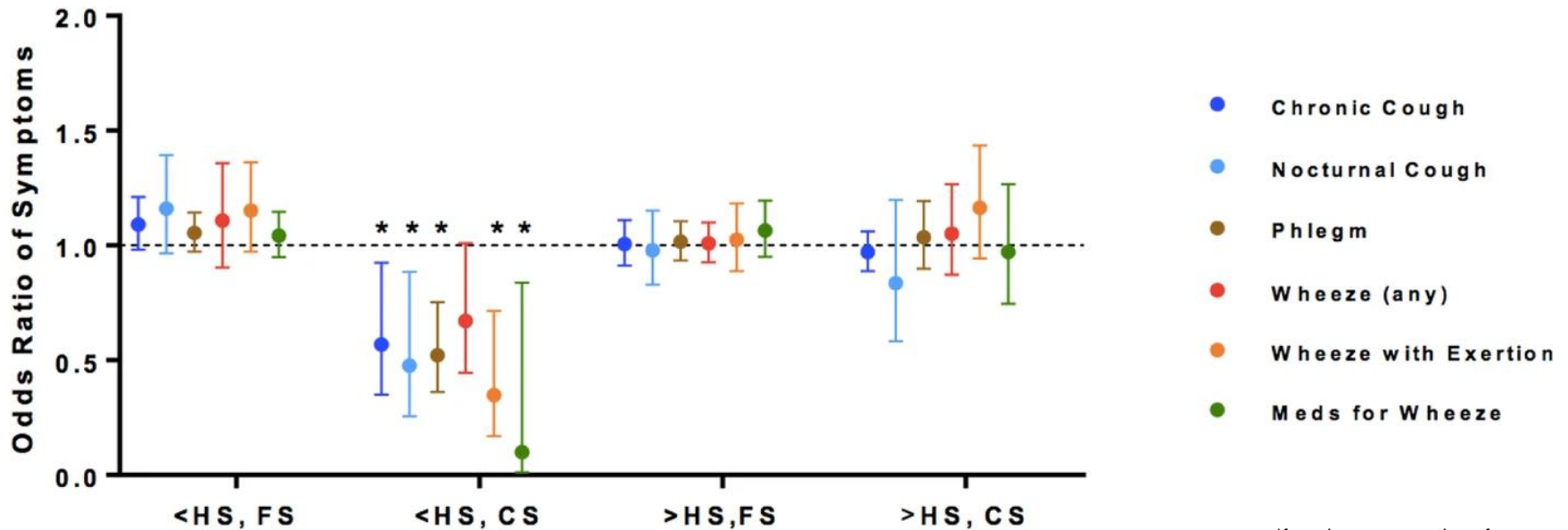
COPD Severity	
FEV ₁ % pred, mean (SD)	54 (17)
mMRC _{≥2} , %	50%
Exacerbation, %	23%
Income (11% refused)	
<\$20K/year	35%
<\$40K/year	62%
FFA, median (IQR)	
Omega-3	0.2 g/d (0.2 g/d)

Food	EPA+DHA
Salmon (3 oz)	1.8 g
Herring (3 oz)	1.7 g
Sardines (3 oz)	1.2 g
Trout (3 oz)	0.8 g
Chicken (3 oz)	0.03 g
Egg	0.03 g

Recommended Daily Intake*: >0.5 g/d

*for primary prevention of coronary heart disease, note variability in recommendation by society
 (Kris-Etherton et al, Prostaglandins, Leukotrienes and Essential Fatty acids, 2009)

Relationship between Omega-3 Intake and Respiratory Symptoms is Modified by SES and Smoking Status (U.S. Adults with COPD)



*for primary prevention of coronary heart disease, note variability in recommendation by society (Kris-Etherton et al, Prostaglandins, Leukotrienes and Essential Fatty acids, 2009)

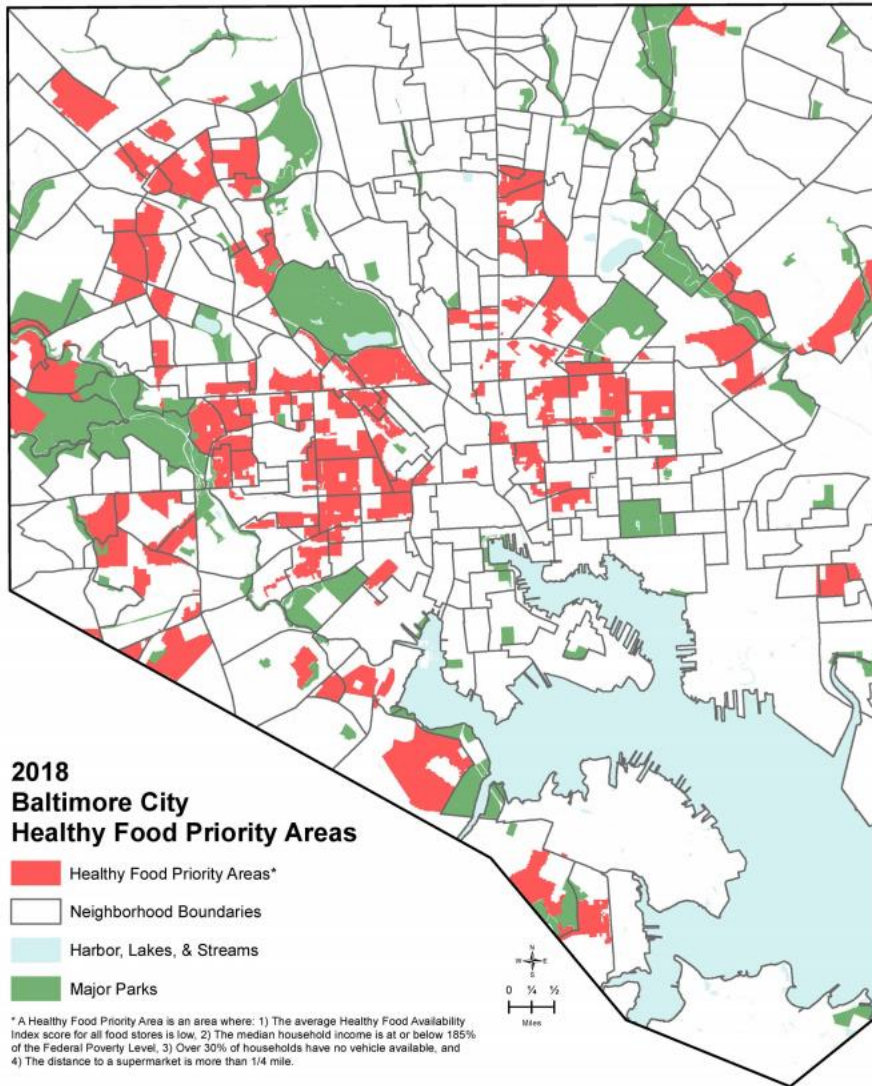
Recommended Daily Intake* >0.5 g/d

FFA, median (IQR)	
EPA + DHA	0.1 g/d (0.2 g/d)

High Pollutant Levels and Low Omega-3 Intake are Synergistic (Baltimore City)

**Further Preliminary Data in a Baltimore City population with COPD (unpublished)

Steps in Translation: Food Access



Food Priority Area

1. The distance to a supermarket or supermarket alternative is $>1/4$ mile
2. Median household income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level
3. Over 30% of household have no vehicle available
4. The Average Health Food Availability Index for all food stored is low

- **Consider food delivery services!**

Dietary Intervention: Increasing Omega-3 Intake



****Pilot**

Eligibility: Moderate-severe COPD, <500mg/day EPA+DHA by FFQ

Intervention (x4 weeks):

\$50 voucher, weekly dietary counseling to assist with ordering of omega-3 rich foods and to advise on food preparation

Control (x4 weeks):

\$50 voucher, weekly assistance to order food of their preference

Supporting...

The OMEGA-COPD Trial

Aiming to investigate whether a dietary intervention aimed at increasing omega-3 intake among low-income populations with COPD can improve respiratory health.

Thank you!



Emily Brigham, MD, MHS
ebrigham@jhmi.edu

